



## COUNCIL – 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – CROSSING PATROLS POLICY**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Kevin Etheridge and is supported by Councillors A. Farina-Childs, G Simmonds, B Owen, D. Cushing, T. Parry and N. Dix, R Gough
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, and is now presented to Council for consideration.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Council are asked to note the comments of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee and consider the notice of motion the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Etheridge in his notice of motion requests a review of the School Crossing Patrols process undertaken by CCBC when a crossing patrol vacancy arises after the existing post holder has left or has retired. We believe the evaluation does not

consider various factors including the number of entrances to the school, engagement and consultation with schools, parents and governors and concentrates on main entrances only.

5.2 Councillor Etheridge also provided the following information in relation to the motion:

The current review process has caused much distress and upset which has been keenly felt with the withdrawal of the service at Blackwood Primary School, and we ask for the school crossing role to be reinstated. At the time of its survey by Highways Officers, we understand attendance at the school was at only 87% and many more children were observed entering the school that were not added to the data, having walked around perimeter or not crossing at the survey location. We wish the Well Being of Future Generations Act regarding the safety of children to also be considered, we believe that this warrants a second look at the review/survey process for School Crossing Patrols.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Councils Constitution.
- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The Notice of Motion was considered at the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Councillor Etheridge was invited to speak on his motion and explained that this was as strategic motion and referred to the Policy that was originally considered by Education for Life Scrutiny committee in 2014. He appreciated that the Policy was based upon national guidance and that this sets out a criteria for evaluation of a school crossing when an attendant leaves the position.

Councillor Etheridge stated that he felt that the evaluation should also include consultation with parents. He outlined that the evaluation by officers looks at the children entering the school through the main entrance and does not include side entrances, which are often used by nursery school children and breakfast clubs. The scrutiny committee were informed that the recent evaluation was carried out during the pandemic, and schools have used side entrances for social distancing. In addition, there is no appeals procedure for schools. Members were asked to consider supporting a review of the policy criteria, as the aim is to protect children.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the policy is based on national guidelines and to differ from that would require a bespoke policy. The council would have to think about what it wanted from a policy should the motion be supported by Councillors. The current policy is tried and tested and applied throughout the UK. Members were informed that although the policy was approved in 2014 the National Guidance was updated in 2016. Therefore, the policy can change and will continue to do so when the guidance is updated. Criteria for the evaluation includes the crossing point and also takes into account other entrances if the crossing point is used. They assess the crossing point alongside the number of vehicles, speed, width of the road and walkways as well as any data on road casualties. Importantly, if there is a change in factors, the assessment can be re-done and re-introduce a crossing attendant if the revised assessment score justifies it. The scrutiny committee were also advised that a new assessment will be carried out at Blackwood Primary school once the covid restrictions have been lifted.

Reference was made to the new requirements in the Highway Code, which put pedestrian safety at the forefront. Members asked if this would result in changes to the national guidance, officers stated they were not aware of any changes but would check. However, Members were advised that the new 20MPH zones guidance from Welsh Government (that should be implemented in 2023) will provide additional safety in residential areas.

Members highlighted that there are efforts to encourage a reduction of traffic to schools and promote walking to school, this may increase the amount of pedestrians going into schools.

A motion to not support the Notice of Motion was moved and seconded, by way of Microsoft Forms voting (and in noting that there were 6 votes For, 3 votes Against and 1 Abstentions) the motion was not supported.

Therefore, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee RECOMMEND to Council that the motion submitted by Cllr Etheridge **not** be supported

## 11. STATUTORY POWER

### 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.